

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A data-providing apparatus attached to a plurality of user apparatuses over a network, said data-providing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit configured to receive data transmitted from the plurality of said user apparatus;

a user contents control unit configured to control recording of the data received by the receiving unit into a recording area corresponding to each user apparatus with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

a shared contents control unit ~~including a shared data flag;~~ configured to control the recorded contents ~~set to be shared by a user who transmits contents~~ based on the shared data flag; and

a data-supplying unit configured to supply data set to be shared to the user apparatus in response to a demand made by the user apparatus,

wherein the shared data flag indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising thumbnail-generating means for generating a thumbnail corresponding to the data received by the receiving unit, and thumbnail-transmitting means for transmitting the thumbnail to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines whether the data should be paid for its use, when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said shared contents control unit further determines a fee for the data when the data is supplied to a second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The data-providing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said fee is an amount that the data-processing apparatus needs to pay to the second data-processing apparatus when the data is supplied to the second data-processing apparatus.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A data-providing method, said data-providing method comprising the steps of:

receiving data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents ~~set to be shared by a user who transmits contents~~ based on the shared data flag; and

supplying a data set to be shared to said user apparatus in response to a demand by said user apparatus,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using ~~[[a]]~~ the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A program-storing ~~medium~~ device for use with a computer, which stores a computer-readable program, the program performs the steps of

receiving data transmitted from a plurality of user apparatus;

controlling a recording of the data received in the receiving step into a recording area corresponding to each of the plurality of user apparatuses with a user ID indicating each user who offers the data to be shared and a shared data flag set by the user in a database;

controlling recorded contents ~~set to be shared by a user who transmits said contents~~ based on the shared data flag; and

supplying a data set to be shared to said user apparatus in response to a demand by said user apparatus,

wherein the recorded contents are controlled by using ~~[[a]]~~ the shared data flag that indicates whether the user contents is set to be shared or not.